

Polhemus, Debbie

SB 87

From: Kathy Trame [sillyme@bresnan.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 10:30 AM
To: Polhemus, Debbie
Subject: testimony sb 87

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To Senator Essman,

I am writing in response to the hearing for SB-87.

I am a victim of sexual assault and I would like to speak out for my self and other victims like me that I have had the honor to talk with.

As another bill is being constructed I and other victims want to scream at you. STOP IT! Though well intended you are only making things more difficult for us. I, like so many others never reported the crimes against us because all of the problems they create.

Imagine yourself being a small child where a member of the family touches you a sexual manner. You know it is wrong and want it to stop. Yet you know what will happen if you tell: your family will be torn apart. Daddy will be taken away to prison, even if he can be treated in the community! Your siblings will be mad at you for telling and making it impossible to pay the bills. The abuser will be published on the INTERNET and to the whole world. As if their kids (which usually include the victim) won't be isolated, teased and maybe even beat up. People will figure out who the crime was committed against. This kind of thing caused me to crawl deeper into myself and isolate. There are victims who deal with confusion and pain through revenge.

They make all the noise but know little about healing relationships that have been wounded. Some have been violently raped and traumatized in a way that is different from the situations I am speaking about. They may not realize the differences involved. For instance, the exception to what I say here may be the high risk sex offender but that's not from what I understand Restricting lower risk sex offenders to where they where they can live, work and

socialize is NOT going to prevent them from re offending? To place them in a restricted area and take them away from society will only increase their low self worth and increase the desire to be wanted and needed by some one and the likely hood to re offend. I and other victims that I have spoken with truly believe that this there needs to be more

money spent on reunification and healing. NOT punishment. We would go the the authorities if we believed this was going to happen. Not more ways to punish the person. People are losing jobs, housing and even their churches in some cases!

As victims we have learned not to trust the judicial system. In our minds they take away a person that we truely care about and deny him the help he could get in the community-- at his own expense instead of the taxpayers.

Making it so we can never live together again and then just leaving us to hang with no support and no healing. . We don't fix these people by shunning them.

We victims are often quiet, withdrawn people. We usually do not speak up when we are uncomfortable with things like laws being passed to 'protect us' that for the most part do just the opposite. This gives others the misconception that the laws are good and do some good for the victim. A lot of these laws make us victims crawl deeper inside our selves and give us more reason NOT to report. Such as the national registry law. Has any one ever bothered to look at that from the victims that don't deal with confusion and pain of their victimization from a revenge point of view? 90% of sexual assaults are done by a family member so when the offender is posted on the INTERNET and in the newspaper us victims are re offended because to us it is being published to the whole world just who we are. Restricting where they can live and work does the same thing because in our mind if we had kept our mouths shut this wouldn't be happening.

I am speaking up for myself and many other victims when I say please spend more time, money and effort on educating the offender and victim and work on reunification where it is possible.

Thank you for you time,

Kathryn A Fraser